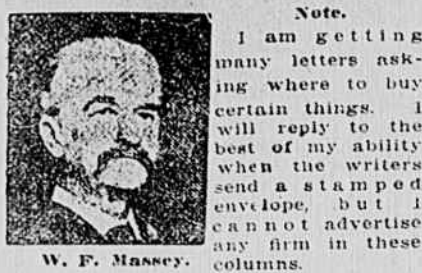


WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



Note.

I am getting many letters asking where to buy certain things. I will reply to the best of my ability when the writers send a stamped envelope, but I can not advise them in these columns.

Growing Figs.

"Can figs be grown from cuttings in the open grounds? What is the best variety of figs? There is no difficulty whatever in rooting cuttings of the ripe one-year wood of the fig. Make cuttings in the fall and tie in bundles and bury them in the earth out of reach of frost. In spring take them up and set in rows, planting the whole cutting in the ground except the top end, the cuttings being made about ten inches long. Now, what is the best variety depends largely on climate. I had at one time in North Carolina fifty-five varieties of figs, getting all the best ones from the south. In Europe, figs are grown in the open ground, but some of the best, like the White Adriatic and the Don Pedro, are too tender to thrive out of the orange belt. The figs known as Smyrna figs, that make the dried figs of commerce, can only be grown in a mild climate, and with the aid of a little wasp that lives on a wild hardy fig. I have grown the Smyrna fig from seed of the dried figs, but they invariably dropped the fruit without ripening. They have the insect that sets the fruit now in California. And are growing the Smyrna variety successfully. This insect needs what is called the Capri fig to live upon, and they set the fruit on the Smyrna fig. The hardest figs are the Celestial and the Don Pedro. The Celestial is a small brown fig, that can be eaten when ripe, skin and all, while most of our self-setting figs need to have the skin removed for eating.

The finest fig in North Carolina was the French Green Vert. This is a large fig of a satiny green color when ripe and deep red within. It is rather tender and grows in the salt water. In fact, all figs thrive in our latitude best right along the salt water as at Old Point and Norfolk. Most of the figs grown in Virginia are the Brown Turkey. They are usually grown here in bush form, but I recently saw an orchard in the lower end of Northampton County on single stems and as large as ordinary peach trees. This shows the value of the salt sea situation. I have grown them successfully north of Baltimore in a very cold section by branching them at the ground, and in the fall as soon as frost cut the heavy I divided the branches in four bundles and bent them to the ground and pinned them fast and then piled the soil thickly over the whole, like a four-pointed star. In this way I have carried them through a winter that went below zero more than once, and lifted them in the spring after frost was over, and generally carried over the early crop better than the later fruit.

Bur Clover.
"I have been told by a man who grows bur clover that he makes 1,200 to 2,000 pounds an acre in the bur. Do you think this possible? What is a good variety? In the first place, in your Piedmont section I do not think that bur clover is desirable. As to making the crop you mention, I am not able to positively contradict it, because I have never made a crop of this plant for seed. Still, I have heard that half that amount would be a very heavy crop. Bur clover, even in the warm, sandy soils of the coast region, cannot compare either as a soil improver or forage plant for such a winter crop. Then, too, I am inclined to fight shy of any plant that will certainly reseed the land and come again, for it will be apt to come where I do not want it. This is the chief objection I can see to the hairy vetch, where one is interested in wheat growing, for it will be sure to get into the wheat, and the seed are very hard to clean out. The man's enemy sowed Tares (vetch) in his wheat, and it is as bad in wheat to-day as in Bible times. The one advantage the bur clover has is that it will reseed the soil and give benefit when the seed are sown in the bur.

Growing and Keeping Sweet Potatoes.
"I planted last spring three acres in Nanny Hall sweet potatoes, with 2-3-3 fertilizer in the furrows, and afterwards added broadcast 400 lbs. of a special potato fertilizer, and have kept the cultivator running, a day going the same way to keep one vines with the cultivator. Later I have used shovels on the cuttings and ridged them slightly. As I want to turn hogs in after digging the potatoes, I want to drill peas between the rows. Do you advise this? Shall I pull earth to the top of the vines? Shall I lift the vines loose from the ground, where they are rooting? I have a large row three feet above ground, two windows in the brick wall on west side next a wood cellar and one window on east side under kitchen and door coming up into the house. Is this a good place to keep the potatoes? Is it best to store in crates or to build shelves? Will it be necessary to have artificial heat in this room? My correspondent covers a great deal of ground in a long letter, from which I make the above extract. I have never tried planting peas between sweet potatoes, but cannot see that they will do any harm or, planted late, amount to anything for the hogs. You need not use a hoe in sweet potatoes if you throw some of them in the last cultivation, which can be best done with a cotton sweep. I never disturb the vines, for I want them to make all the leaves possible, for it is the leaves that get carbon from the air with which the mineral matters form and distribute starch, and potatoes are very largely starch, or starch transformed into sugar.

Hence we want plenty of leaves, and when the soil is well-supplied with phosphoric acid and potash we will make the potatoes, no matter how rank the vines, use on sweet potatoes a fertilizer with 2 per cent of nitrogen, a per cent of phosphoric acid, and 10 per cent of potash in sulphate form.

Now as to keeping sweet potatoes. The first thing is the digging. This should be done if possible in bright sunny weather, and the potatoes left lying along the rows in the sun, but never thrown in heaps, as that would bruise them. In the evening gather them into crates and store in crates without any further handling. But never store cut potatoes. Our large growers here have especially built houses for curing the crop. These houses have heating apparatus and ventilators. After the potatoes are in, the heat is applied and run up to 85 or 90 degrees, till the potatoes have

dried off from the sweat they always go through after storing. The ventilators are kept open while heating. Then all is closed up and no fire heat is used unless it is necessary to keep the temperature above 45 degrees and not over 50 degrees. You are in the lower Piedmont or midland section, with a comparatively mild climate. The room you mention should be a good place to store the potatoes if you manage it right. Put the crates of potatoes so that there will be a free circulation of air all among them. Then, with the windows open, have a stove to raise a curing heat as I have mentioned till the potatoes show that they have dried off. Then close the windows and darken them, and watch the temperature during the winter, and if you can maintain a temperature of from 45 to 50 degrees without fire heat it will be all right. But the important point is to not allow them to get chilled when sweating after storing. With their curing houses, our growers here can watch the markets, and ship as indicated by prices. You are growing for a large school and only need to be sure to keep them. There may be times in winter when there is warm and muggy weather, and the ventilating windows may need to be opened, but this will be seldom with you. Once get the potatoes well cured and not chilled when stored, and the keeping is easy, but if they have too low a temperature when first stored and are sweating, there will be trouble. Therefore, it is always better to have heating apparatus.

Fertilizer for Clover.

"Does it pay to use commercial fertilizer on crimson clover, and if so what sort? You are in the Piedmont country, and if your land is red clay it will pay to use acid phosphate liberally on the clover, and if your land is gray or sandy, I would mix with it some muriate of potash. Say 200 pounds of acid phosphate and twenty pounds of muriate of potash an acre. It is more profitable, if the future of the soil is taken into consideration, to fertilize the clover that feeds the soil and the stock, liberally with the materials they especially need. If your land is acid, you cannot expect good results from sowing clover seed. Lime should be used to correct the acidity and make it congenial to the clover bacteria.

Pall Garden Notes.

I made my first sowing of the Big Boston lettuce August 5. These plants I expect to transplant into rows sixteen inches apart and eight inches in the rows, and hope to head them before hard frost. About the 10th of this month I expect to make the first sowing of spinach, using the round-leaved Saxony seed. These, too, will be in rows sixteen inches apart, and will be manured well with rotted street sweepings and a high grade commercial fertilizer added. This sowing is for the fall cutting, and will last till near Christmas.

Leeks have been transplanted into open furrows, and these, too, will get, as they grow, a heavy mulch of the street sweepings. The plants were set deeply in the furrows, and the soil will be worked into them as they grow, for we want them to make long and strong white shanks for winter use.

My first sowing of Danvers Carrots made a very poor stand in the dry weather, but I can still grow carrots by sowing seed of the Early Favourite Horn carrot, that grows almost as quickly as a radish.

In the flower garden the first of the bulbs to be planted is the Cardamine, the old Annunciation or Madonna lily. Late August is the best time to plant these, as they must make a green rosette of leaves for the winter in order that they may bloom well next summer. I plant these by the thousands, as they are a commercial crop with me, and we make as good bulbs in our sandy soil as are imported from France, and the cut flowers are easily shipped in summer. The wholesale dealers have taken all my first class bulbs, and are planting the smaller ones to develop for another season. Of the fall planting of bulbs I will have something to say later.

About the last of August, seed of the Philox Drummondii can be sown, and will make nice plants that will winter easily, and will bloom a great deal earlier than the seed sown in the spring. I have some still blooming finely from seed sown last summer.

One of the finest climbing vines for the porch in summer is the new Cardinal Climber. This is a cross between a green vine and the scarlet Morning Glory. It has finely cut leaves and scarlet flowers larger than either parent. Last winter I started some in the greenhouse, and potted them and set them out in the spring. Later I got more seed and planted them in the open ground. These have beaten the coddled plants and have climbed fifteen feet, while the greenhouse-grown plants are still but two or three feet tall. The pretty foliage and the rampant growth covered with bright scarlet flowers make a combination that is very attractive, and I advise all our lady friends to get the Cardinal Climber. Unlike others of the Morning Glory family, it is a very shy seed maker, and the seed are still rather expensive. I am hoping to ripen some this summer.

One of the most attractive summer blooming vines is the Chinese Trumpet vine. I have one, grafted on our wild trumpet vine, and it makes great masses of large, orange-colored flowers when there are few other flowers in the shrubbery. It can be trained to a stake with a single stem and make a beautiful weeping tree that will be a great show in July.

Now is the time to sow seed of Pansies and double hollyhocks. I sow the pansy seed in shallow boxes, and as soon as large enough I transplant them into beds for wintering and spring blooming. Some others I set in a frame and protect with sashes for blooming in late winter and early spring. But the plants usually winter well here outdoors and bloom finely in spring.

Seed of the double hollyhocks sown now where they are to grow, and thinned out and the thinning transplanted, will make a fine show next summer. I put them next the garden fence as a background to smaller things.

Driving Ants.

"We are much troubled with ants in our sandy soil, especially in the hills of melons. What will destroy them? I have heretofore said that I have driven ants by watering their hills with a strong tea made of green willow twigs. To destroy them it will probably be better to punch holes in the hills and pour in a teaspoonful of earth, and the fumes will kill all in reach.

FREE SUGAR TEXT OF TARIFF DEBATE

Republicans Predict Ruin of Cane Industry and Fattening of Trust.

DEMOCRATS NOT ALARMED

Expect No Votes in Opposition Except Those of Thornton and Ransdell.

Washington, August 18.—Free sugar was the text of the tariff debate in the Senate to-day, Republican members assailing the Democratic proposal to put sugar on the free list in 1916, predicting the ruin of the Louisiana cane sugar industry and the "gobbling up" by the trust of the domestic beet sugar industry of the country.

Senators Bristow, Smith, of Michigan; Sterling, Smoot, Lodge and Cummins led in the attack on the sugar schedule, which bids fair to hold attention of the Senate for several days. No time has been fixed for a vote on the Democratic rates or amendments proposed to-day by Senator Bristow, which would provide for a gradual reduction of the tariff on refined sugar until the figure would reach \$1.25 per 100 pounds in 1919.

Democratic leaders asserted to-night that the Bristow amendments would be voted down, and that there would be no Democratic votes to be cast against the majority except those of the Louisiana Senators, Thornton and Ransdell, who gave notice of their purpose to the Democratic caucus.

In to-day's discussion, Senator Bristow asserted that the American Sugar Refining Company, which several years ago started out to acquire the beet sugar factories, abandoned the plan because "they found it would be cheaper and easier to destroy this industry through free sugar than to control it by purchase of stock."

Fear Antitrust Law.

Senator Walsh declared that testimony of beet sugar men before the lobby committee was to the effect that the reason the American Sugar Refining Company reduced its holding in the beet sugar plants of the West was because of fear of the Sherman antitrust law.

Senator William Alden Smith, vigorously supporting the Bristow amendments, said: "I venture the assertion that the American Sugar Refining Company, or any of its owners, has not purchased any beet sugar stock since the Democratic party came into power, and will not buy any until you have passed your bill and your three years of stragulation have persecuted the beet sugar men and tremendously reduced the price of their stock."

"If the industry is going to be ruined," asked Senator Williams, "why should the stock be bought then?" "Because the Democratic lease of power," replied Senator Smith, "is but temporary and there later will be a reaction."

"If this party's lease of power is temporary," Senator Williams returned, "why picture all this despair, why not pass the bill, turn the Democrats out, re-establish your lines and go ahead?"

The Republican Senators unanimously contended that the proposed rates would not cheapen sugar to the consumer.

Senator Cummins said the removal of the sugar duty in 1916 would tend to sabotage the present reciprocity treaty with Cuba, because it would abolish the Cuban sugar preferential, the chief provision of the treaty. He raised the question, however, whether the proposed law or the treaty eventually would prevail.

Not in Conflict.
Senator Lodge, who said he drafted a portion of the Cuban reciprocity treaty, declared that the ascending bill made an immediate reduction in the sugar rate of approximately 20 cents a hundred pounds, and that this reduction would not be in conflict with the treaty.

Senator Williams also insisted that the proposed rates would be between the treaty and the bill. The treaty, he said, applied to all imports, guaranteeing Cuba a preferential, but not preventing a change of tariff rates by law. "Indubitably," he added, "the bill will give Cuba the right to serve notice of abrogation of the treaty if she wants to take that view of it. But Cuba may conclude as she gets many other things in a preferential rate that it is to her interest to keep this treaty anyhow."

Senator Sterling said agitation for free sugar had deterred capitalists from erecting beet sugar factories in South Dakota. Senator Walsh, of Montana, expressed the belief that many projected beet sugar factories in the West had been kept from entering the field by the "powers that be" in the beet sugar industry.

Senator Lodge gave statistics to show that the price of sugar gradually had declined for many years, and argued that it was idle to expect that free sugar would reduce the cost of living. Free sugar, in his opinion, was desired by the cane sugar refiners of the country in order to kill off competition of the beet sugar interests and control the American market absolutely. These refiners, he asserted, the Federal, the Arbuckle and the American Sugar Refining Company, agitated free sugar "because they thought there was money in it."

The amendment of the Senate Finance Committee to the House sugar schedule, which would make the proposed rates effective beginning March 1, 1914, but not affecting the provision for free sugar in 1916, was approved.

At the conclusion of the debate of the day, Senator Norris, of Nebraska, gave notice that he would offer an amendment to strike out the proposed provision for free sugar in 1916. Senator Simmons announced that unless rapid progress was made by Wednesday, he would urge that daily sessions begin at 10 A. M.

TOURNAMENT AT KING GEORGE.

Number of Knights Try Their Skill Before Large Crowd.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Friedrichsburg, August 18.—At a tournament held at King George Courthouse a number of knights tried as follows: James Ashby, Jr., of Stafford; first, crowning Miss C. W. Smith; second, crowning Miss McKee; third, crowning Miss McKee; fourth, crowning Miss McKee; fifth, crowning Miss McKee; sixth, crowning Miss McKee; seventh, crowning Miss McKee; eighth, crowning Miss McKee; ninth, crowning Miss McKee; tenth, crowning Miss McKee; eleventh, crowning Miss McKee; twelfth, crowning Miss McKee; thirteenth, crowning Miss McKee; fourteenth, crowning Miss McKee; fifteenth, crowning Miss McKee; sixteenth, crowning Miss McKee; seventeenth, crowning Miss McKee; eighteenth, crowning Miss McKee; nineteenth, crowning Miss McKee; twentieth, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-first, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-second, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-third, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-seventh, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-eighth, crowning Miss McKee; twenty-ninth, crowning Miss McKee; thirtieth, crowning Miss McKee; thirty-first, crowning Miss McKee; thirty-second, crowning Miss McKee; 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one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eighth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and ninth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and tenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eleventh, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twelfth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fourteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and seventeenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eighteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and nineteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twentieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-first, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-second, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-third, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-seventh, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-eighth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-ninth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirtieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-first, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-second, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-third, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-seventh, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-eighth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and thirty-ninth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fortieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-first, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-second, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-third, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; 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one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and eighteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and nineteenth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twentieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-first, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-second, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-third, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-seventh, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and twenty-eighth, crowning Miss McKee; 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one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fortieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-first, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-second, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-third, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-seventh, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-eighth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and forty-ninth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fiftieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-first, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-second, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-third, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-fourth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-fifth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-sixth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-seventh, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-eighth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and fifty-ninth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixtieth, crowning Miss McKee; one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and one hundred and sixty-first, crowning Miss McKee; 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